most of he essential drugs from price control and to reduce the price control basket; and

(e) if so, what are the basis on which such a decision has been taken and what are the details of studies and reports on which such conclusion has been drawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) No such regular study has been conducted.

(d) and (e) The entire Drug policy is under Review.

BICP as a Recommendatory Body

1332. SHRI R. S. NAIK:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1671 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BICP is only a recommendatory body in the matter of fixation of prices;

(b) if so, under what authority BICP put down its feet while working out the prices of formulations based on Bulk drugs prices which were reduced;

(c) whether it is a fact that this was done even after the prices of bulk drugs were notified with the approval of the Minister incharge; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to investigate the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) BICP is an expert body of the Government on industrial costs and prices and its recommendations/ suggestions constitute an important input in the decision leading to fixation of prices.

(c) BICP sought certain clarifications on reduction in prices of bulk drugs and the matter was sorted out later.

(d) Question does not arise.

Prices of Merck Enzyme Tablets etc.

1333. SHRI R. S. NAIK:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of Merck Enzyme Tablets, Progmatar, Clistin, Daktarin, Dulcolax Tablets, Eudyna Cream, Thromophob Gel, Urografin 76 per cent Primon-N Haemaceal, Ascabiol and Rastinon Tablets have gone up without any basis;

(b) what was the price of each before Drugs Price Control Order, 1987 and what is the present price;

(c) what is the MAPE take on each product by the manufacturers in the break up submitted according to the provision of price control and what is the material cost of each;

(d) what steps have been taken to verify the prices taken in the break up; and

(e) what are the Major Raw Materials on which each product is based and what price of each has been taken by the manufacturer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) All these formulations are out of price control and the manufacturers are free to fix their own price. In case of formulations outside price-control, Government intervenes to bring it to a reasonable level. However, this can be enforced only when the pre-tax return on the sales turnover of the unit exceeds the limits prescribed in the Fifth schedule of DPCO, 1987.

(b) to (e) Information asked for is voluminous and the results likely to be achieved will not be commensurate with the time and efforts involved.